WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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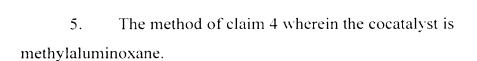
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- 1. A method for oligomerizing at least one olefinic monomer, the method comprising the step of contacting a feed comprising the olefinic monomer under oligomerization conditions with a catalyst composition comprising the reaction product of:
- (a) a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of M[$S_2C_2(R^aR^b)$]₂ and M[$S_2C_6(R^1R^2R^3R^4)$]₂, wherein M is a late transition metal, R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected and may be the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups and unsubstituted and substituted hydrocarbyl groups; and
 - (b) an activating cocatalyst.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein M is selected from one of Fe, Co, Ni, Pd, and Pt.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of bis(dithiobenzil) nickel, bis[1,2-bis(trifluoromethyl)ethylene-

1,2-dithiolato] nickel, and derivatives thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the cocatalyst is selected from the group consisting of alkylaluminoxanes, aluminum alkyls, aluminum halides, alkylaluminum halides, Lewis acids other than any of the foregoing, alkylating agents and mixtures thereof.

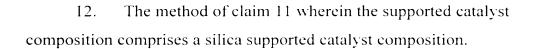


- 5 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is at a temperature in the range of from about 0°C to 100°C and at pressures of from about 15 to 2000 psig.
- 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is conducted in a solvent.
 - 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is conducted in a gas phase.
- 15 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said olefinic monomer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, butenes, hexenes, octenes and mixtures thereof.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein said olefinic monomer is ethylene.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst composition comprises a supported catalyst composition.



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- 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the feed contains contaminants.
- 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the contaminants comprise sulfurcontaining compounds.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the sulfur-containing compounds comprise H₂S, mercaptans, sulfides, thiopenes and derivatives thereof.
- 16. A method for oligomerizing at least one olefinic monomer from a feed stream having sulfur-containing compounds, the method comprising the step of contacting the feed stream under oligomerization conditions with a catalyst composition comprising the reaction product of:
- (a) a compound having a formula selected from the group consisting of M[$S_2C_2(R^aR^b)$]₂ and M[$S_2C_6(R^1R^2R^3R^4)$]₂, wherein M is a late transition metal, R^a , R^b , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected and may be the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups and unsubstituted and substituted hydrocarbyl groups; and
 - (b) an activating cocatalyst.